

91 Dale P. Jones
cont.

28. A filtration device as in claim 24, wherein the spirally wound filtration media comprises a laminate of filter media.

REMARKS

Claims 4, 10, 12, 16, 23, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 12, second paragraph, because of the use of the term "conventional". These claims have been amended to delete the term "conventional".

Claims 1-28 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 5-14, and 17-28 stand rejected under Section 102(b) in view of Degen '446. Claims 3, 4, 15, and 16 stand rejected under Section 103(a) in view of the combination of Degen '446 and Pall '995. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims patentably define over the applied references for at least the reasons set forth below.

Degen '446 relates to a fluid treatment device having a generally cylindrical configuration wherein multiple layers of a filter medium are disposed around a pervious hollow cylindrical tube. The purpose of the filtration device according to Degen '446 is to provide a tapered porosity gradient in the direction of fluid flow by providing generally decreasing pore ratings in the filtration medium in the direction of fluid flow. To accomplish this, Degen '446 expressly describes that the filtration media is helically wrapped around the core element. This is in stark contrast to the method of wrapping the filtration media around a core element in accordance with the present invention. Referring to Degen '446, at column 5, lines 20-65, it is variously described that the filter medium layers are helically wrapped such that the edges of the filter medium sheets are abutting or overlapping in the helical wrap. For example, the reference describes that the overlapping may vary from 0% to as much as 95%, with a preferred range of about

25% to 75%. The reference goes on to describe that, in the overlapping configuration, care must be taken to ensure that wrinkling of the filter medium does not result due to the variable outer diameter of the helically overlapped layers as one layer is partially placed over the top of itself as well as the preceding layer. This helical wrapping of the filtration media is an important feature of Degen '446.

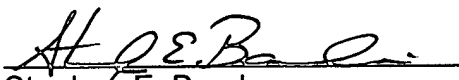
On the other hand, each of the independent claims (claims 1, 13, and 24) calls for the filtration medium to be spirally wound with respect to the core element. The spiral configuration is clearly shown in Figure 3. Referring to Figure 3, the wraps spiral radially outward but completely overlap each other. In other words, there is 100% overlap of the respective wraps. There is no spiraling of the wraps as required by Degen '446. Accordingly, for at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the independent claims (claims 1, 13, and 24) patentably distinguish over Degen '446 and are allowable. The remaining claims depending from the independent claims are thus also allowable.

Applicants also respectfully submit that the dependent claims calling for at least one of the filter media to comprise activated carbon are also independently allowable over the cited references. The filtration media of Degen '446 is concerned primarily with filtering particulate matter, and the focus of Degen '446 is on the porosity or pore size of the different layers of filter media. Degen '446 does not teach or suggest that one of the filter layers should be an activated carbon material. Also, neither Degen '446 nor Pall '995 suggest that the filter media may comprise a laminate of filter materials as set forth in claims 11, 22, and 28.

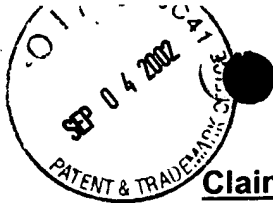
With the present amendment, applicants respectfully submit all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable action thereon is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at his convenience to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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Claim Worksheet for 09/712,085(KCX-224)

4. (Amended) A filtration device as in claim 3, wherein the filtration device is configured for installing into a water sprayer of a [conventional] sink assembly so that filtered water may be provided from the sprayer.

10. (Amended) A filtration device as in claim 9, wherein the filtration device is configured for installing into a water sprayer of a [conventional] sink assembly so that filtered water may be provided from the sprayer.

12. (Amended) A filtration device as in claim 1, wherein the filtration device is configured for installing into a water sprayer of a [conventional] sink assembly so that filtered water may be provided from the sprayer.

16. (Amended) A filtration device as in claim 15, wherein the filtration device is configured for installing into the water sprayer of a [conventional] sink assembly so that filtered water may be provided from the sprayer.

23. (Amended) A filtration device as in claim 13, wherein the filtration device is configured for installing into the water sprayer of a [conventional] sink assembly so that filtered water may be provided from the sprayer.

26. (Amended) A filtration device as in claim 24, wherein the filtration device is configured for installing into a water sprayer of a [conventional] sink assembly so that filtered water may be provided from the sprayer.

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